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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/887,629

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Vipul Bansal

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INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION

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EXAMINER

AKINTOLA, OLABODE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3691

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/18/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/887,629

Applicant(s)

BANSAL ET AL.

Examiner

OLABODE AKINTOLA

Art Unit

3691

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 13-15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, 31-33, 37, 39, 40, 44, 45 and 49-51 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 13-15, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, 31-33, 37, 39, 40, 44, 45 and 49-51 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Final Drawing Review (PTO-842)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/19/2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1, 3-4, 8-9, 13-15, 19, 21-22, 26-27, 31-33, 37, 39-40, 44-45 and 49-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pathak (US 20020016760)

("Pathak") in view of Tannenbaum, J ("Web Sites Help Small Companies Open Internet Stores--E-Business Service Providers Offer Inexpensive Way to Try Something New", Wall Street Journal, New York, N.Y.: April 25, 2000) (hereinafter referred to as "Tannenbaum").

Re claims 1, 19 and 37: Pathak teaches a method for enabling the online determination of end to end costs during an online ascending or reverse auction, said method comprising: maintaining an online database of costs associated with each significant cost element in order to compute said end to end costs for goods and services offered by an offerer and bid upon by a bidder (sections 033); receiving a first online bid to buy or sell said offered goods and services from a first bidder (sections 033); updating said online database of costs related to said first online bid and calculating a first bid's end to end costs related to said first online bid (sections 033); receiving a second online bid to buy or sell said offered goods and services from a second bidder (sections 033); updating said online database of costs related to said second online bid and calculating a second bid's end to end costs related to said second online bid (sections 033); if, in an ascending auction, said second bid's end to end costs result in a higher payout to said offerer than the first bid's end to end costs, then accepting said second bid, else accepting said first bid (section 0009, 0010, 0014, claim 3 (f.iv-f.v and d.)); and if, in a reverse auction, said second bid's end to end costs result in a higher cost to said offerer than the first bid's end to end costs, then accepting said first bid, else accepting said second bid (section 0009, 0010, 0014, claim 6 (f.iv-f.v and d)).

Pathak does not explicitly teach the method is implemented by an online intermediary providing facilities as a service free of charge. Tannenbaum teaches an online intermediary (entity hosting)

providing facilities as a service free of charge (pages 1-2). It would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Pathak to have an intermediary provide this service for free in exchange for placing advertisement on the website.

Re claims 3, 21 and 39: Pathak teaches wherein said each significant cost element includes any of shipping and handling costs, logistics management costs, taxes, finance costs, commissions, duties, insurance, regulatory and statutory-related costs, and information costs (section 0033).

Re claims 4, 22 and 40: Pathak teaches wherein databases, which provide information for updating said online database of costs, are associated with said offerer, said bidder or by a third party (section 0033, fig. 1).

Re claims 8-9, 13-14, 26-27, 31-32, 44-45 and 49-50: Pathak teaches an online ascending and reverse auctions; minimum/maximum qualifying bid (abstract, sections 0009, 0010, 0014, 0033, claim 3 (f.iv-f.v and d.), claim 6 (f.iv-f.v and d)).

Re claims 15, 33 and 51: Pathak teaches wherein updated offers are shown to potential bidders after online computation of said end to end cost (section 0013)

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Turban, E., ("Auctions and Biddings on the Internet: An Assessment" , Focus Theme, CSU, Long Beach, 1997), teaches online auction of foreclosed real estate (Page 8, col. 1, para. 2) and Listing fees (page 10, col. 1, para. 3).

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, ("Sale Contract" 1/99) teaches net amount due to Seller (Purchase price less closing help, broker commission and "listing fee") (Page 2, item 5-7).

Hostetter, "HUD homes have many advantages unjustified bad reputation", The Fresno Bee, Fresno Calif.: July 12, 1998, teaches that winning bid is the one with the biggest net return to HUD after closing costs and broker's commission are paid (page 2, para 9-14).

Svitil, "Homes on the Block Southland Buyers Find Homes They Can Afford at HUD Auctions"; LA Times, Calif., Feb. 5, 1995

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to OLABODE AKINTOLA whose telephone number is (571)272-3629. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM -5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexander Kalinowski can be reached on 571-272-6771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OA

/Hani M. Kazimi/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3691